

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jacoby Church and Cemetery

other names/site number 099-516-20023

2. Location

street & number west side of North King Road, south of 8 A Road N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Plymouth N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Marshall code 099 zip code 46563

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion,
the property
X meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide X locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined not eligible for the

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Jacoby Church and Cemetery

Marshall County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	objects
		2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A	N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION: Religious Facility	WORK IN PROGRESS
FUNERARY: Cemetery	FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
MID-19 TH CENTURY: Greek Revival	foundation STONE: Granite
	walls WOOD: Weatherboard
	roof ASPHALT
	other BRICK
	WOOD

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

Jacoby Church and Cemetery
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1860-1910

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fesser, John (builder)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination if individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Jacoby Church and Cemetery
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	5	6	1	7	8	0	4	5	7	8	1	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Johnna Ramer, Vice President; Amy Walker

organization Wythoughan Valley Preservation Council date 01-28-2006

street & number 308 S. Michigan St. telephone 574/ 936-7517

city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Doug Kucera, Center Township Trustee

street & number 113 E. Washington ST. telephone 574/ 396-3726

city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Marshall County, Indiana

Description

The Jacoby Church and Cemetery are located in Center Township, Marshall County, Indiana on King Road, three miles east of the city of Plymouth. Center Township was organized in 1836 and was one of the three original townships in the county.

There are two contributing resources included in this application—the 1850 cemetery and the 1860 church. The cemetery was laid out in 1850 by farmer John Jacoby when his daughter, Catherine, died of typhoid fever and there were no established cemeteries in the area in which to bury her. Jacoby deeded the one-acre parcel to the German Reform Church that same year for the purposes of a cemetery, church and school (no longer extant). The 1860 Greek Revival church building faces east and the cemetery surrounds the north, west, and south sides. It was built by John Fesser.

Exterior

The Greek Revival style church is a simple one-story rectangular building with wood clapboard siding and a 6/12 pitch, asphalt shingled gable roof. It originally had a wood shingle roof. The 32 foot by 40 foot main portion of the church rests upon a fieldstone foundation that is now covered in concrete slurring. A water table board terminates at the lap siding above the stone foundation. Two short chimneys rise from the north and south sides of the roof.

The east façade is dominated by a 1910 vestibule/belltower that is centered on the east façade of the original building. This 8 foot by 10 ½ foot addition is on a concrete foundation and matches both the style and materials of the main portion. The entire building is covered in horizontal weatherboard siding that is painted white. A set of concrete stairs with metal railings leads to the entrance. These paired wood doors are not original. The doors are topped by a 2-paned vertically-divided transom window and the door/transom combination is highlighted by fairly simple wood trim with a more decorative drip cap. Resting upon the drip cap is a wooden panel marked “Jacoby Church 1860”. A single 1/1 wood double-hung window flanks either side of the entry. Both windows have the same simple wood trim and decorative drip cap as the entry. The vestibule has a wide frieze, cornice returns, and simple corner boards.

The square belltower rises from the roof the vestibule and has the same wood siding and corner boards as the vestibule. A small square window is in the bottom half of the east façade. It features the same simple wood trim and decorative drip cap as the main floor windows. Resting upon this square section is a smaller square with four open Gothic lancet arches with the original iron bell hanging inside. A slightly bellcast square pyramidal roof tops the belltower. The steeply pitched roof is capped by an iron finial.

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**Jacoby Church
Marshall County, Indiana**

Description-continued

The remainder of the east façade is covered with horizontal weatherboard siding, a wide frieze highlighting the gable, cornice returns and simple corner boards.

The north and south facades are identical. Three 4/4 double-hung wood windows are evenly spaced on each side. The frieze board runs below the eaves. The short brick chimneys emerge through the roof between the middle and eastern-most windows.

The west façade has the frieze board along the gable and highlighting the cornice returns. A small window/vent located just south of the gable peak has been filled/repaired.

Interior

The interior of the church consists of an 8x11-foot vestibule plus an 8x4-foot closet leading to the belltower. The walls of the vestibule are covered with plaster and lath on the top two-thirds and with tongue and groove painted wainscoting (c.1910) on the lower one-third. The ceiling of the vestibule is 8-feet high. There are original coat hooks mounted to wood rails on the wall. A pair of raised panel wood doors separate the vestibule from the sanctuary at the center of the east wall.

The sanctuary measures 31x39-feet and the ceiling is 14-feet high and covered in acoustical tile. Like the vestibule, the walls are covered with tongue and groove painted wainscoting (c.1910) on the bottom and plaster and lath on the top. There is crown molding along the ceiling. The floor is square nailed 5-inch wide pine planks. Windows and doors have painted straight stock hardwood casings with eased edges. The walnut pulpit sits on a 6x10-foot raised alter centered on the west wall. A detached 5-foot wood kneeler sits in front of the platform area. There are ten rows of wood pews (c.1910) flanking each side of the central aisle. They are not secured in place so they can be moved as needed. There is also a pine attendance board and a Kingsbury upright piano in the sanctuary. The original wood frame screen doors with decorative corner brackets are stored in the belltower access closet.

Originally heat was provided by two wood-fired cast-iron nickel-plated stoves (which are stored in the belltower access closet) which connected to dual brick chimneys. Fuel old heaters (c.1950) replaced the wood stoves and are connected to the brick chimneys which are centered on the north and south walls of the sanctuary.

The building has been vacant since 1964 and lacks modern conveniences such as water, air conditioning and central heat. The church contains a 60-amp electric service and four hanging schoolhouse lights in sanctuary area. Conditions at the church

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Marshall County, Indiana

Description-continued

deteriorated until in 1982 with Iris (Jacoby) Price had necessary repairs made to the church by Larry McCan and his crew of carpenters. There are plans underway to restore the church and investigate opportunities for community usage.

Cemetery

The cemetery surrounds the Jacoby Church on the south, west, and north sides. It is bordered by agricultural fields on all sides. There is one old cedar tree within the cemetery area. There are approximately 166 burials and the earliest marked one is April 23, 1850, for Catherine Jacoby, daughter of John Jacoby. The materials used for grave markers include concrete, sandstone, granite, and marble. Graves of note include John Jacoby, who deeded the property to the church and cemetery, and several generations of Jacoby descendents. Veterans from the War of 1812, Mexican War, Spanish-American War, Civil War, and World War I are buried in this cemetery. In 1935 the local branch of the Daughters of the American Revolution documented the cemetery including reading and sketching the markers. In 1961, Iris (Jacoby) Price had the stone of John Jacoby and Elizabeth Jacoby repaired by stonemason John Stoller. Other repair/restoration efforts occurred in 1982 and 1985. The cemetery is still being used for burials.

Statement of Significance

The Jacoby Church and Cemetery are rated "notable" in the Marshall County Interim Report (1990). The church is representative of the once prevalent rural community churches which spotted the landscape throughout Marshall County and represents how the early rural residents came together for social and religious purposes. Marshall County, Center Township only had nine rural churches compared to fifteen churches within the city of Plymouth located approximately three miles southwest. This also demonstrates the shift from rural to urban living and as these churches were abandoned, some were destroyed and others lost their interior furnishings. Of the original nine rural churches in Center Township only Jacoby Church is still standing and retains its interior furnishings such as pews, pulpit and bell. The Jacoby Church and Cemetery are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C for Exploration/Settlement and Architecture. The period of significance is 1850-1910.

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Marshall County, Indiana

Statement of Significance-continued

Exploration/Settlement

Marshall County is located in the north-central portion of Indiana and its development lagged behind that of surrounding counties because of a large Potawatomi Indian presence and the lack of a road system. However, in the early 1830s the Michigan Road was built to connect Michigan City along the southern tip of Lake Michigan to Madison on the Ohio River. It ran 258 miles roughly north-south through the state, including Marshall County, and with its construction came a burst of new settlers. Marshall County was established in 1836 and Center Township was one of the three original townships created shortly thereafter. It encompassed present day West, Center, and Bourbon Townships. At the time the township was formed about 600 European settlers had arrived in the county, mostly via the Michigan Road. People continued to travel the Michigan Road to northern Indiana and Marshall County. However, the township's settlement was slow until the 1850s when the railroads passed through the area. The first, the Cincinnati, Peru, and Chicago Railroad, arrived in Plymouth in September 1856 and the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad came just two months later. Historically the township's economy was based on agriculture and this is evidenced by the diverse architecture throughout the township.

An assortment of resources remain in Center Township and Plymouth from early settlement times. Thirteen residential properties either in the township or Plymouth remain but all but one dates from c1850 (one is c1855). There are two log buildings and the others are either wood or brick I-Houses, saltboxes, or other early vernacular architecture with varying degrees of integrity. The earliest remnant of exploration/settlement is the Taber Cemetery which dates from 1835. There are five other cemeteries in the township with founding dates ranging from 1835-1850, including the Jacoby Cemetery. While the Jacoby Cemetery is not the earliest cemetery in the township, it is one of two that began during settlement times that remain in use today. The other early cemetery still in use is Stringer Cemetery (c1840) is just outside of Plymouth city limits. Therefore, the Jacoby Cemetery, especially when paired with the adjacent Church, is more representative of the typical rural church/cemetery combination that would have been found during the early years of the township and county.

John Jacoby traveled from Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania to Marshall County, Indiana in 1847 and purchased the entire section (number 35) of uncleared forest land. Also in 1847 John Jacoby invited a preacher to his home because there were no churches close by. In 1850, one of John Jacoby's daughters, Catharine, died of typhoid fever. Since there was no cemetery nearby, Jacoby laid out one acre for burial purposes. His little girl's grave was the first that was dug on April 25, 1850. The cemetery is located to the south, west and north of the church and contains plots dating from 1850-2005. In 1860,

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Marshall County, Indiana

Statement of Significance-continued

the Jacoby family and neighbors decided to build a church. John Fesser was contracted and the existing frame church was constructed in 1860. The Democrat, Vol.2, No.17, May 23, 1861, reported that the "German Reform Church situated 3 miles east of Plymouth in the Jacoby neighborhood will be dedicated on June 9, 1861". The land for the cemetery and church was conveyed from John and Elizabeth Jacoby to the Jacoby congregation on November 18, 1850. Marshall County plat maps of 1872, 1876, and 1880 all show German Reform Church and School. The 1908 and 1922 maps show church and cemetery. Other recorded deeds state that the land was conveyed to congregation of German Reformed & Lutheran Denominations (1850), German Reform Church (1861), St. John's Church (1870), and St. John's Reformed Church of Center Township (1892). Although the structure is currently vacant, it remains a symbol of the early fabric of history in Marshall County. The Jacoby family were prominent members of the agricultural, political, and religious communities of early Marshall County. John Jacoby not only donated the land for the Jacoby church and cemetery, but according to A Twentieth Century History of Marshall County, Indiana by Daniel McDonald, Jacoby was the founder of St. John's Reformed Church. His grandson, John R. Jacoby, was a "member of Jacoby or St. John's Congregation of the Reformed Church, which is located near his residence" and served as sexton of the church and cemetery for 66 years. These community churches spot the rural landscape throughout Marshall County and represent how the early rural residents came together for social and religious purposes.

Iris Price, a Jacoby descendent, coordinated repairs and maintenance for the structure for many years during the 1960s. Also, from history of Sunrise Chapel Church Dedication Services bulletin, June 14, 1964: "One June 29, 1958, the Jacoby church east of Plymouth on King Road was reopened after being closed for many years and the congregation held its services there until April 26, 1964" when their new church was constructed on Lincoln Highway east of Plymouth.

Architecture

Jacoby Church reflects the general trend of rural churches to be simple in form, decoration, and materials reflecting the basic skills and limited resources of the local residents who donated the materials and time to construct the building. Most were rectangular, one room buildings reminiscent of early residential construction. The primary difference between the two was the orientation of the doorway—the entrance was on the long axis of the residence and the gable end of the church.

Jacoby Church is an example of Greek Revival architecture in Center Township, Marshall County, Indiana. The simple exterior exemplifies the Greek Revival style with its rectangular form, frieze, and cornice returns, and elongated windows. The interior

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Statement of Significance-continued

and double door entrance with transom are consistent with this simple form. The vestibule/belltower addition in 1910 created a double door entrance to the church duplicating the double door entrance to the sanctuary. Jacoby Church is the only remaining rural church in Center Township. Also, within the city of Plymouth, there are no churches of comparable Greek Revival style. However, there are several houses with some variations of Greek Revival style located throughout Marshall County.

- Samuel Taber house is a c.1850 upright-and-wing with Greek Revival details.
- John Greer house is a c1855 Greek Revival house.
- Circa 1860 I-house with Greek Revival/Gothic Revival details.
- Circa 1850 double-pile house with Greek Revival details.
- Circa 1850 gable-front house with Greek Revival details.
- Circa 1850 hall-and-parlor house with Greek Revival details.
- Circa 1850 central passage with Greek Revival details.

All of the above houses were rated "contributing" in the Marshall County Interim Report with the exception of the c1850 central passage which was rated "notable". The instance of Greek Revival architecture in Marshall County that most closely resembles Jacoby Church is Summit Chapel School (District No. 3 School) built c.1880. Summit Chapel School, located in Tippecanoe Township, is surrounded by a cemetery and matches the Jacoby Church in materials and style. The most notable exception is that the Jacoby Church has an existing belltower. Summit Chapel School has a single door entry and vestibule/cloak room in comparison to the double door entry of Jacoby Church. The Summit Chapel School was in use from c.1880-1928.

Bibliography

"German Reformed Church in the Jacoby Neighborhood Damaged by Lightning" The Marshall County Republic, Vol. 6 No. 39, July 31, 1862.

"German Reform Church...Dedicated" The Plymouth Weekly Democrat, Vol.2 No. 17, May 23, 1861.

"John R. Jacoby Honored for Services to Church". The Daily Pilot, Plymouth, Indiana, Friday, April 19, 1935.

Kraft, Reverend Darrel. "History of Sunrise Chapel Church" Dedication Services Bulletin, June 14, 1964.

Jacoby Church

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Marshall County, Indiana

Bibliography-continued

McDonald, Daniel. A Twentieth Century History of Marshall County. Reprinted 1973.

Marshall County, Indiana. <http://resources.rootsweb.com/USA/IN/Marshall> viewed 18 April 2006.

Marshall County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. 1990.

Marshall County Historical Society. The History of Marshall County, Indiana. 1986.

"St. John's Reform Church, Special Services Held in Recognition of Improvements Made" The Plymouth Weekly Democrat October 27, 1910.

Warranty Deed to the Trustees of the German Reform Church, 1850.

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined on the warranty deed from John Jacoby, Sr and Elizabeth Jacoby:

The following real estate lying and situated in said county of Marshall and state of Indiana: Commencing at the north east corner of the south west quarter of section thirty five (35) in township thirty four (34) north, of range two (2) east turning thence west ten rods and eight feet, thence south a distance of sixteen rods, thence east parallel with the north line of said quarter section ten rods and eight feet to the half section line thence north to the place of beginning the whole to contain one and 8/160 acres.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Jacoby Church sits within the boundaries of Jacoby Cemetery and this parcel of land has been associated with the church and cemetery since it was deeded for said use. The cemetery is surrounded on three sides by agricultural fields. The property directly across the road from the church is also agricultural field.

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Marshall County, Indiana

Photography

The following information applies to photographs 1-12:

- 1) Jacoby Church and Cemetery
- 2) Marshall County, Indiana
- 3) Photographer: Johnna J. Ramer
- 4) May 9, 2006
- 5) Originals are with the Wythougan Valley Preservation Council

Photo 1: Camera facing west: east façade & entrance, cemetery visible on left & right

Photo 2: Camera facing north: south façade, cemetery visible in lower portion

Photo 3: Camera facing east: west façade, cemetery visible in lower portion

Photo 4: Camera facing south: north façade, cemetery visible in lower portion

Photo 5: Camera facing west: interior view of sanctuary down main aisle

Photo 6: Camera facing southwest: interior view of vestibule, wainscoting, entry & coat hooks

Photo 7: Camera facing north: interior view of ladder to belltower within the vestibule closet

Photo 8: Camera facing east: interior view of entry doors & sanctuary from vestibule

Photo 9: Camera facing west: interior view of sanctuary, raised altar area, pulpit, & kneeler

Photo 10: Camera facing southeast: interior view of sanctuary, pews & attendance board

Photo 11: Camera facing west: cemetery with cedar tree

Photo 12: Camera facing west: marker for Spanish-American War veteran



